



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,428	12/28/2000	Isao Yagasaki	826.1657	5687
21171	7590	11/03/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			SHERKAT, AREZOO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/749,428	YAGASAKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Arezoo Sherkat	2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 5-7 and 13-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5-7 and 13-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/22/2005 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: "the certifying unit" should read as "the certificating unit" or vice versa. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 5-7 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,505 and Howard hereinafter).

Regarding claim 1, Howard discloses a service unit connectable to a certificating unit and at least one terminal unit, said service unit comprising:

a transmitting device transmitting common certificate information in common with a plurality of services, when the terminal unit of a user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services, to the certificating unit which manages the common certificate information corresponding to service information of available services that the user can access, without requiring identification information or password information issued by the services (Col. 5, lines 44-63);

a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certificating unit and providing the terminal unit of the user with display data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information received from the certificating unit (Col. 7, lines 44-66); and

a storing device storing the common certificate information and the identification information and the password information for the particular service (Col. 3, lines 34-61).

Regarding claims 6-7 and 13, Howard discloses a certifying method comprising:

registering common certificate information in common with a plurality of services that is linked to service identification information of an available service that a user can access, without requiring management of identification information and password information issued by the available service, and issuing the common certificate information for the user (Col. 5, lines 44-63);

receiving the common certificate information of the user from a service unit of the available service (Col. 7, lines 11-34); and

permitting the service unit to provide the available service to the user when the received certificate information is linked to the service identification information of the particular service (Col. 7, lines 11-66).

Regarding claim 14, Howard discloses wherein said registering device adds other service identification information of a newly available service for the user to the common certificate information, when a second service unit of the newly available service requests that the newly available service be certified by the common certificate information (Col. 5, lines 44-67 and Col. 7, lines 11-34).

Regarding claim 15, Howard discloses wherein said permitting device, in response to a request from the first service unit of the particular service to said certifying unit for the available services corresponding to the common certificate information, obtains complete service identification information of the available services linked to the common certificate information of the user, and returns the complete service

identification information to the first service unit (Col. 6, lines 63-67 and Col. 7, lines 1-34).

Regarding claim 16, Howard discloses further comprising an invalidating device invalidating service identification information of a selected service, when a third service unit of the selected service requests invalidation (Col. 7, lines 11-34 and Col. 8, lines 1-7).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Khidekel et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0027527),

Reiche, (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,196),

Howard et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,731), and

Sears, JR. et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0133540).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A. Sherkat
Arezoo Sherkat
Patent Examiner
Group 2131
Oct. 31, 2005

Ayaz Sheikh
AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100